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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 95

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/55/582/Add.8)*]

55/196. International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at its nineteenth special session[2] and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and those of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session,[3] relating to freshwater,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in which the Council recognized the contribution that the celebration of international years could make to the furtherance of international cooperation and understanding,

Recalling further its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

Noting the ongoing work in the United Nations system and the work of other intergovernmental organizations on freshwater,

1. *Proclaims* the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater;

2. *Invites* the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to serve as the coordinating entity for the Year and to develop relevant preliminary proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on possible activities, including possible sources of funding, that could take place at all levels, as appropriate;

3. *Calls upon* Member States, national and international organizations, major groups and the private sector to make voluntary contributions in accordance with the guidelines for international years and anniversaries;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.
[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.
[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

freshwater and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a progress report on the preparations for the International Year of Freshwater.

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20 December 2000

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/55/582/Add.8)*]

55/197. International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998 and 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 and 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation for a better scientific understanding of the El Niño phenomenon and that international cooperation and solidarity with the affected countries are indispensable,

Reaffirming also the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the measures adopted in order to ensure the continuity of international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, within the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and reiterates its invitation to Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, contained in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of its resolution 52/200;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the working group on the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon within the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the

[1] A/55/99-E/2000/86.

necessary measures for the prompt establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for that purpose, in accordance with resolution 54/220;

5. *Invites* the Government of the host country to facilitate the process for the prompt establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/219 and 54/220 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001, on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

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55/198. Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling Agenda 21[1] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21adopted at its nineteenth special session,[2] and its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 54/217 of 22 December 1999,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes by means of better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies, within their respective mandates,

Emphasizing the need for the conferences of the parties and the secretariats of the environmental conventions to continue to pursue sustainable development objectives that are consistent with those conventions and with Agenda 21,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and sustainable development;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the secretariats of the instruments related to environment and sustainable development and other relevant organizations to implement resolution 54/217;

3. *Encourages* the conferences of the parties to, and the secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the Convention on

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.
[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.
[3] A/55/357.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Biological Diversity[5] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[6] and other international instruments related to environment and sustainable development, as well as relevant organizations, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, including, as appropriate, the involvement of the environmental management group, to continue their work for enhancing complementarities among them with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels and to report thereon to their respective conferences of the parties;

4. *Also encourages* the conferences of the parties, assisted by their secretariats, to coordinate the timing of their sessions and the sessions of their subsidiary bodies, taking into account the organization of work of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development;

5. *Further encourages* the conferences of the parties to promote the streamlining of national reporting;

6. *Invites* the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and other international instruments related to environment and sustainable development, as well as relevant organizations, to provide further information on their work to implement resolution 54/217 and other complementary activities in their contributions to the preparatory process for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21, to be carried out in 2002;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the above-mentioned work in the preparation of documentation and other preparatory activities for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21, to be carried out in 2002.

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[5] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.
[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/55/582/Add.1)*]

55/199. Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in New York from 23 to 28 June 1997,

Recalling also that Agenda 21[1] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] should constitute the framework within which the other results of the Conference are reviewed, and from within which new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the Conference are addressed,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/188 of 15 December 1998 and 54/218 of 22 December 1999 on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and the special session, as well as its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

Recalling Commission on Sustainable Development decision 8/1 on preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference,[3]

Recalling also that chapter 33 of Agenda 21 identified the Global Environment Facility as one source of financing for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Recalling further the importance for developing countries of chapter 34 of Agenda 21,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring effective preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 9* (E/2000/29), chap. I, sect. B.

implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4]

Taking note with appreciation also of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its sixth special session,[5]

Deeply concerned that, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and the fact that some progress has been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate,

Reaffirming the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and stressing that the review should focus on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[6]

Bearing in mind that the substantive activities of the review should take into account, as appropriate, the results relevant to sustainable development of other United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up activities,

Bearing in mind also that national reports prepared by Governments since 1992 on national implementation of Agenda 21, to which major groups have contributed, could provide a fair basis for guiding national preparatory processes,

Reaffirming that Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development should not be renegotiated and that the review should identify measures for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference, including sources of funding,

1. *Decides* to organize the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 at the summit level to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable development, and accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of South Africa to host the summit;

2. *Also decides* to call the summit the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

3. *Further decides* that the review should focus on the identification of accomplishments and areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21[1] and the other results of the Conference, and on action-oriented decisions in those areas, should address, within the framework of Agenda 21, new challenges and opportunities, and should result in renewed political commitment and support for sustainable development, consistent, inter alia, with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

4. *Decides* that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental

[4] A/55/120.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/55/25), annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

[6] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

protection, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

5. *Stresses* the importance of early and effective preparations for the Summit and a comprehensive assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference to be carried out at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system so as to ensure high-quality inputs to the review process, and welcomes the preparatory activities carried out so far;

6. *Welcomes* the work undertaken at the regional level, in close collaboration with the respective regional commissions, to implement action programmes for sustainable development that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Summit itself;

7. *Also welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and the secretariats of conventions related to the Conference, as well as other relevant organizations, agencies and programmes within and outside the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way;

8. *Further welcomes* the report of the Global Environment Facility to the General Assembly on its contributions to the implementation of Agenda 21,[7] and notes the assistance provided by the Facility to the national implementation of Agenda 21;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its last meeting, held from 1 to 3 November 2000,[8] to request the Chief Executive Officer to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the Facility in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[9] taking into account the third replenishment;

10. *Also welcomes* the initiation of the third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, invites all donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to make contributions to the third replenishment and ensure its successful conclusion, and invites the Facility to submit a report to the Summit on the status of the replenishment negotiations;

11. *Invites* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations and international financial institutions involved with the implementation of Agenda 21, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, and of conventions related to the Conference, to participate fully in the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, including in the preparation of reports for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session and the Summit, in

[7] See A/55/94.
[8] See ICCD/COP(4)/11/Add.1, decision 9/COP.4, para. 2.
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

order to reflect their experiences and the lessons learned and to provide ideas and proposals for the way forward for the further implementation of Agenda 21 in relevant areas;

12. *Encourages* effective contributions from, and the active participation of, all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as its established practices related to the participation and engagement of major groups;

13. *Decides* that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session shall meet as an open-ended Preparatory Committee that will provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, as well as other participants in the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995;

14. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the Bureau of the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development by the end of 2000 so that they can be involved in its preparations in advance of the first session of the Preparatory Committee;

15. *Decides* that the Commission, acting as the Preparatory Committee, should:

(*a*) Undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other results of the Conference on the basis of the results of national assessments and subregional and regional preparatory meetings, the documentation to be prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the task managers, and other inputs from relevant international organizations, as well as on the basis of contributions from major groups;

(*b*) Identify major accomplishments and lessons learned in the implementation of Agenda 21;

(*c*) Identify major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21, propose specific time-bound measures to be taken and institutional and financial requirements, and identify the sources of such support;

(*d*) Address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since the Conference, within the framework of Agenda 21;

(*e*) Address ways of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and evaluate and define the role and programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(*f*) Consider and decide on accreditation for the participation in the preparatory process and the Summit of relevant non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(*g*) Propose a provisional agenda and possible main themes for the Summit based on the results of the preparatory activities carried out at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, taking into account also the input of major groups;

(*h*) Propose rules and procedures for the participation of representatives of major groups in the Summit, taking into account the rules and procedures applied at the Conference;

(*i*) Undertake any other functions that may be required by the preparatory process;

16. *Also decides* to hold, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 8/1,[3] a three-day meeting of the tenth session of the Commission, so that the Commission can start its work as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, and, in this context, invites the Commission to start its organizational work in order to do the following:

(*a*) Elect, from among all States, a Bureau composed of ten members, with two representatives from each of the geographical groups, one of whom would be elected Chairperson and the others Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur;

(*b*) Consider progress in preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, as well as by major groups;

(*c*) Decide, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 17 below, on the specific modalities of the future sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

(*d*) Consider a process for setting the agenda and determining possible main themes for the Summit in a timely manner;

17. *Further decides* that, in 2002, the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit, shall hold three additional sessions, organized as follows:

(*a*) At its first and second sessions, to be held in January and March 2002, respectively, the Preparatory Committee shall undertake the comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; at its second session, the Preparatory Committee shall agree on the text of a document containing the results of the review and assessment, as well as conclusions and recommendations for further action;

(*b*) Drawing upon the agreed text of such a document, the Preparatory Committee at its third and final session, to be held at the ministerial level in May 2002, shall prepare a concise and focused document that should emphasize the need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirm the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of Agenda 21, and address the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard; the document submitted for further consideration and adoption by the Summit should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to a North/South partnership and a higher level of international solidarity and to the accelerated implementation of Agenda 21 and the promotion of sustainable development;

18. *Decides* to organize the third and final session of the Preparatory Committee at the ministerial level in Indonesia, and accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Indonesia to host it;

19. *Stresses* that the preparatory meetings and the Summit itself should be transparent and provide for effective participation and inputs from Governments and

regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and for contributions from and the active participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21;

20. *Welcomes* the establishment of a trust fund, urges international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the preparations for the ten-year review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the Summit itself, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Summit itself;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the state of preparations for the Summit for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, taking into account, inter alia, the inputs of the various regional meetings;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21".

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55/200. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixth special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/216 of 22 December 1999 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session and 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Recalling further the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the Programme at its nineteenth session,[1]

Underlining the fact that the forthcoming ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will provide the international community with a unique opportunity to take action to implement its commitments and to strengthen the international cooperation urgently required to address the challenges of sustainable development in the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference, as reflected in the decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session,[2]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixth special session,[3] takes note of the decisions contained therein as well as the consultations among member States in preparation for the twenty-first session, and, in this regard, also takes note of the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.
[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 9* (E/2000/29).
[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/55/25).

ongoing consultations contributing to the further elaboration and implementation of the water policy and strategy of the Programme;

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the First Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and, in this regard, expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of Sweden for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the Forum, and takes note with appreciation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration[4] as one of the contributions to the Millennium Summit and to the preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the section of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on protecting our common environment,[5] in which heads of State and Government reaffirmed the principles of sustainable development as set out in Agenda 21,[6] and in particular resolved to adopt a new ethic of conservation and stewardship in all our environmental actions;

4. *Welcomes* the decision[7] of the Governing Council on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;[8]

5. *Stresses* that the United Nations Environment Programme, as the principal body in the field of the environment within the United Nations system, should continue to play an important role in the implementation of Agenda 21 and in the preparations for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference;

6. *Underlines* the need for sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the Programme, in particular with a view to ensuring its strong involvement in the preparatory process for the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the Conference at its various levels, and in the implementation of the outcome of the review;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2002-2003, in accordance with current budgetary practices, and to consider other ways to support the strengthening of the Programme in view of the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

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[4] Ibid., annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/55/25), annex I, decision SS.VI/3.

[8] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

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55/201. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/221 of 22 December 1999 on the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and other relevant resolutions, including its resolution 49/119 of 19 December 1994, in which it proclaimed 29 December, the date of the entry into force of the Convention, the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Reaffirming that the conservation of biological diversity is a common concern of humankind,

Recalling that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling Agenda 21,[2] in particular its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity, chapter 16 on the environmentally sound management of biotechnology and related chapters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session,[3]

Emphasizing the importance of public education and awareness for the implementation of the Convention at all levels,

Noting the recommendation of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifth meeting that the date of the International Day for Biological Diversity be changed to give it greater visibility,

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See A/55/211.

Deeply concerned about the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Recognizing the contribution of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, and women within those communities, to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Noting the continuing dialogue in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,[4]

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention, and satisfied that most States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of the adoption by the Conference of the Parties, in its decision EM-I/3 of 29 January 2000,[5] of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the subsequent signature of the Protocol by seventy-five parties to the Convention,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 2000,

Also expressing its appreciation to the Government of Spain for hosting the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on article 8 (*j*) of the Convention regarding the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, held at Seville from 27 to 31 March 2000,

Welcoming the generous offer of the Government of France, accepted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, to host the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, held at Montpellier from 11 to 15 December 2000,

Welcoming also the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands, accepted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, to host the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, which will be held at The Hague from 8 to 26 April 2002,

Urging the parties to the Convention to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the General Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties,

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[4] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[5] See UNEP/CBD/ ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

1. *Urges* Member States that have not joined the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] to become parties to it, without further delay;

2. *Calls upon* Member States that are parties to the Convention to sign and ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[5] as soon as possible;

3. *Takes note* of the results of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 2000;[6]

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the adoption of its programme of work and the thematic approach to guide its work in the development of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosystems and other cross-cutting issues;[6]

5. *Notes* the decision by the Conference of the Parties to undertake a limited number of pilot scientific assessments in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be involved in the proposed millennium ecosystem assessment, and its request to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to identify opportunities for collaboration;

6. *Stresses* the importance of capacity-building activities, especially in developing countries, for the implementation of the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol, particularly the development of systems to allow parties to implement the Convention and the Protocol, and encourages developed countries to provide adequate support for those activities;

7. *Urges* developed countries to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound biotechnology for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, in accordance with relevant articles of the Convention and the Protocol;

8. *Decides* to proclaim 22 May, the date of the adoption of the text of the Convention, as the International Day for Biological Diversity henceforth;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary of the Convention to take all steps necessary to ensure the successful observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity;

10. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to contribute to the ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21[2] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[7] and decides to invite the Executive Secretary and, if appropriate, the President of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to report to it at its relevant session;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the rapid development and implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Convention, and encourages States parties to provide to the Executive Secretary, in accordance with decision V/20 adopted by the Conference of the Parties,[6] their detailed views on the matter as soon as possible;

12. *Welcomes* the collaborative work between the Convention and related conventions, in particular the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, adopted at Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 2 February 1971;[8]

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[6] See UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23 and Corr.1, annex III.

[7] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

13. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding its programme of work for forest biological diversity, and encourages the parties to cooperate with the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular with regard to respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, in accordance with article 8 (*j*) and related provisions of the Convention;

14. *Takes note* of the fact that the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[4] and the Convention are interrelated, in particular with respect to intellectual property rights and relevant provisions of the Convention, and invites the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, within their respective mandates, to explore this relationship, taking into account the ongoing work in other relevant forums and bearing in mind decision V/26 B of the Conference of the Parties;[6]

15. *Encourages* Member States that are members of the World Trade Organization to support the request by the Executive Secretary for observer status at the meetings of the Council for the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Committee on Agriculture;

16. *Welcomes* the progress made in implementing cooperation with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[9] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[10] and encourages further cooperation;

17. *Stresses* the need to enhance complementarities between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to ensure that their activities are mutually supportive;

18. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the programme of work;

19. *Notes* the work of the Global Environment Facility in assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention, and urges the Facility to enhance its support for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the context of national sustainable development, and, within its mandate, in identifying and coordinating additional financial resources from bilateral and international organizations as well as the private sector for this purpose;

20. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the Facility in the area of capacity development to assess the capacity-building needs and priorities of developing countries, relating to the conservation of biological diversity, and to develop a strategy and implement a multi-year plan for responding to such needs and priorities, and calls upon other multilateral and bilateral organizations to cooperate with the Facility in strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the conservation and management of biodiversity;

[9] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

21. *Notes* the efforts that the Facility is making towards developing programmes for assisting developing countries in capacity-building activities relating to the Cartagena Protocol;

22. *Calls upon* States parties to the Conventiony to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

23. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

24. *Requests* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development when setting the dates of meetings of the conferences of the parties so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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20 December 2000

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 95 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/55/582/Add.4)*]

55/202. Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998 and 54/224 of 22 December 1999,

Recognizing that small island developing States, given their size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and, in most cases, isolation from markets, face special challenges and unique vulnerabilities of an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capacity to effectively benefit from the opportunities presented by trade liberalization and globalization, while minimizing their negative impact on small island developing States,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Having also considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,[5]

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] See resolution S-22/2, annex.
[4] A/55/185.
[5] TD/390.

Taking note of the report of the second Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change negotiations, management and strategy, which was held at Apia, Samoa, from 26 July to 4 August 2000,[6]

Noting the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, including through effective financial support,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the Cartegena Protocol on Biosafety[7] in December 2000 and the offer of the Government of Cyprus to host the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in January 2001,

Bearing in mind the continued need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[8]

Noting with appreciation the contribution by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underlining the need for those efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

Noting the work being undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy and other international organizations on a vulnerability index, which incorporates, inter alia, environmental and economic vulnerability factors,

1. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] and of the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session;

2. *Welcomes* efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

3. *Invites* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

4. *Invites* the relevant agencies within the United Nations system, in the preparation of the ten-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to identify measures that would ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[6] A/C.2/55/3.

[7] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[8] See A/S-22/4.

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular the donor community, as well as the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, to support the efforts of small island developing States in the further implementation of the Programme of Action through, inter alia, the provision of adequate technical and financial resources, taking into account the Declaration and review document for further implementation and effective follow-up;

6. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to effectively utilize the benefits and mitigate the implications of globalization, including by bridging the digital divide and fostering digital opportunities in the field of information and communication technologies;

7. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

8. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index;

9. *Welcomes* the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to further strengthen the Unit, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions, and to make proposals in that regard;

10. *Welcomes* the contributions of Germany, Italy, Japan and Norway to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular, in support of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/55/582/Add.4)*]

55/203. Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[1] and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration[4] and review document[4] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 54/225 of 22 December 1999,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[5] and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and that they need to be considered as a whole,

Recalling the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,[6]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

Welcoming the adoption, on 16 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[7] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Welcoming also the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife[7] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Welcoming the establishment of the working group on the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon within the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Recognizing the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

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[7] See www.cep.unep.org/law.

Taking note of resolution GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,[8]

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[5]

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

2. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[9] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly[4] and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[5]

3. *Also encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from

[8] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Forty-fourth Regular Session, 18-22 September 2000* (GC(44)/RES/DEC(2000).

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

5. *Calls upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities,[7] in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

6. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

7. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries to become parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

87th plenary meeting
20 December 2000